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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/768,343	01/30/2004	Pekka Pessi	037145-1001	6359

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EXAMINER	
BELANI, KISHIN G	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/768,343	PESSI, PEKKA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kishin G. Belani	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 October 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/ are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 10/25/2007. Only the **Independent claim 16** has been amended to overcome 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection in the previous non-final office action. **Dependent claim 15** has also been amended. All other claims are presented in the original form. **Claims 1-20 are now pending** in the present application. The applicants' amendments are shown in ***bold and italics***, and the examiner's response to the amendments is shown in **bold** in this office action. **This Action is made FINAL**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Consider **claim 16**, "a computer program product" in accordance with the applicant's specification is non-statutory by itself, unless it is stored on a computer readable medium like diskette, CDROM, non-volatile ROM device, etc. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within a statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Although

the applicant has amended **claim 16** to include the text "***embodied on a computer-readable medium***", there is **no support for such a claim in the disclosure.** Also, **a computer-readable medium may include electromagnetic carrier waves, which is a non-statutory medium.** Therefore, **claim 16 remains rejected.**

Claims 17-20 are rejected by virtue of their dependency on claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 15 contradicts **independent claim 12,** which discloses that control messages are received in compressed form, detected, and decompressed by the receiving device; whereas **dependent claim 15** discloses that the control messages are received in uncompressed form.

The applicant's assertion that **claim 15** does not contradict **claim 12** on which it is dependent is not accepted by the examiner, because **claim 15 being dependent on claim 12, inherits all the limitations recited in claim 12, which specifically claims that the control messages (received in compressed form) are detected and**

decompressed by an intermediate relay. Claim 15 therefore cannot further limit the inherited limitation of claim 12 by simultaneously claiming that the control messages are received in uncompressed form, therefore requiring no decompression. The examiner respectfully declines to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 112 Second rejection for claim 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Watson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 7,213,143 B1).**

Consider **claim 1**, Watson et al. show and disclose a method for communicating messages using a signaling compression protocol (Fig. 4 showing SIP network with compressed data; column 1, lines 40-43 that disclose the contents of SIP messages; column 2, lines 19-20 that disclose SIP compression), the method comprising:

detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages (column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link, i.e. between an end device and first proxy or between pair of proxies; column 2, lines 34-37 which disclose **that the first SIGCOMP message contains instructions for the recipient to decompress the message, the instructions being in the form of a** special byte-code to be run on a UDVM (Universal De-compressor Virtual Machine), thereby disclosing ability to detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages);

decompressing the detected control messages at the communication intermediary (Fig. 4, that shows a SIP message after decompression by the communication intermediary (proxy device); column 7, lines 61-67 and column 8, line 1 that disclose the same details); and

passing user messages from the compressed stream of messages through the communication intermediary without modifications (**Abstract, lines 12-16 which disclose that encryption is applied after the message has traversed the end terminal link; on the first proxy link, the message is sent without encryption and can therefore benefit from compression;** column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that message bodies carry information end-to-end between multi-media devices, but message headers carry routing information and are used by the proxies).

Consider **claim 2**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a method, wherein the control messages comprise a multiplex identifier (column 2, lines

34-37 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP message containing instructions to decompress the message).

Consider **claim 3**, and **as it applies to claim 2 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a method, wherein the multiplex identifier is located at the beginning of a communication session (column 2, lines 34-37 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP message containing instructions to decompress the message).

Consider **claim 4**, and **as it applies to claim 2 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a method, wherein detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages comprises detecting the multiplex identifier (column 2, lines 39-42 which disclose that subsequent messages rely on the state at the receiver (a communication intermediary) created by the previous messages, including the decompression code (including multiplex identifier) uploaded with the first message, thereby disclosing that the decompression code has been detected at the receiver).

Consider **claim 5**, and **as it applies to claim 2 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a method, wherein user messages are messages without the multiplex identifier (column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that only message headers (control messages) carry routing information and protocol machinery and are used by proxies; message bodies (user messages) carry information end-to-end between multimedia devices, thereby disclosing that user messages are messages without the multiplex identifier).

Consider **claim 6**, and **as it applies to claim 1 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a method, wherein the control messages are hop-by-hop messages and user messages are end-to-end messages (column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that only message headers (control messages) carry routing information and protocol machinery and are used by proxies (i.e. are hop-by-hop messages); whereas message bodies (user messages) carry information end-to-end between multimedia devices).

Consider **claim 7**, Watson et al. show and disclose a device that communicates messages using a signaling compression protocol (Fig. 3, security proxy devices 32 and 36 connected to SIP network; Fig. 4, showing security proxy device receiving compressed data; column 1, lines 40-43 that disclose the contents of SIP messages; column 2, lines 19-20 that disclose SIP compression), the device comprising:
an input that receives messages (Fig. 3 showing device 32 receiving input from UA1; Fig. 4 showing compressed message being sent from UA1 to a proxy device; column 6, lines 41-47 that disclose the same details);
an output that transmits messages (Fig.3, proxy device 32 shown connected to the SIP network; Fig. 4, showing security proxy device sending a SIP message to UA2; column 6, lines 41-47 that disclose the same details);
a processor that detects control messages included in the messages received by the input, wherein the processor decompresses the control messages and directs non-control messages to be communicated through the output without modification (column

7, lines 66-67 and column 8, line 1, that disclose decompression process carried out by the security proxy, thereby disclosing data processing capability; column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link, i.e. between an end device and first proxy or between pair of proxies; column 2, lines 34-37 which disclose **that the first SIGCOMP message contains instructions for the recipient to decompress the message, the instructions being in the form of a** special byte-code to be run on a UDVM (Universal De-compressor Virtual Machine), thereby disclosing ability to detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages; **Abstract, lines 12-16 which disclose that encryption is applied after the message has traversed the end terminal link; on the first proxy link, the message is sent without encryption and can therefore benefit from compression;** column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that message bodies carry information end-to-end between multi-media devices, but message headers carry routing information and are used by the proxies).

Consider **claim 8**, and **as it applies to claim 7 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a device, wherein the processor detects control messages by identifying a special byte-code contained in the control messages (column 2, lines 34-37 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP message containing instructions to decompress the message).

Consider **claim 9**, and **as it applies to claim 7 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a device, wherein the control messages are uncompressed (Fig. 4, that shows security proxy uncompressing SIP message; column 7, lines 66-67 and column 8, line 1 which disclose that the security proxy decompresses the message according to SIP compression).

Consider **claim 11**, and **as it applies to claim 7 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a device, wherein the modification comprises decompression (column 8, lines 64-67 and column 9, lines 1-8 which disclose that the security proxy provides a method for end-to-end compression, thereby disclosing no modification (i.e. decompression) of user packets).

Consider **claim 12**, Watson et al. show and disclose a system for communicating messages using a signaling compression protocol (Fig. 4 showing SIP network with compressed data; column 1, lines 40-43 that disclose the contents of SIP messages; column 2, lines 19-20 that disclose SIP compression), the system comprising:
a first communication device having a compressor and a de-compressor (Fig. 3, UA1 block 30 as a first communication device; Fig. 4, showing compressed data being sent from UA1 to Security proxy for encryption; column 7, lines 61-62 which disclose that UA1 compresses the outgoing message, thereby disclosing a compressor within UA1; column 8, lines 28-29 which disclose that UA1 performs decompression on the received message, thereby disclosing a de-compressor within UA1);

a second communication device having a compressor and a de-compressor (Fig. 3, UA2 block 38 as a second communication device; column 7, lines 19-22 which disclose that UA2 receives decrypted but compressed message from the receiving proxy, thereby disclosing a de-compressor within UA2 to uncompress the received message; column 7, lines 23-26 which disclose compression over low-bandwidth links 31 (at UA1) and 37 (at UA2), thereby disclosing a

compressor within UA2); and

an intermediate relay between the first communication device and the second communication device that detects and decompresses control messages in messages communicated from the first communication device, and passes user messages through to the second communication device without decompression (Fig. 3, unmarked intermediate relays 32 and 36; column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link, i.e. between an end device and first proxy or between pair of proxies; column 2, lines 34-37 which disclose **that the first SIGCOMP message contains instructions for the recipient to decompress the message, the instructions being in the form of a** special byte-code to be run on a UDVM (Universal De-compressor Virtual Machine), thereby disclosing ability to detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages; Fig. 4, that shows a SIP message after decompression by the communication intermediary (proxy device); column 7, lines 61-67 and column 8, line 1 that disclose the same details; **Abstract, lines 12-16 which disclose that encryption is applied after the message has traversed the end terminal link; on the first proxy link, the message is sent**

without encryption and can therefore benefit from compression; column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that message bodies carry information end-to-end between multi-media devices, but message headers carry routing information and are used by the proxies).

Consider **claim 13**, and **as it applies to claim 12 above**, Watson et al. do disclose a system, wherein the intermediate relay detects control messages when the intermediate relay detects an identifier located in the messages (column 2, lines 34-37 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP (control) message containing instructions to decompress the message).

Consider **claim 15**, and **as it applies to claim 12 above**, Watson et al. disclose a system, wherein messages communicated from the first communication device comprise compressed and uncompressed messages, ~~the control messages being uncompressed and the user messages being compressed~~ ***, wherein the uncompressed messages include control messages and the compressed messages include user messages*** (column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that message headers (control messages) carry routing information and are used by the proxies, but message bodies (user messages) carry information end-to-end between multimedia devices and therefore can remain compressed; column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link and therefore needs to be uncompressed).

Consider **claim 16**, Watson et al. disclose a computer program product, ***embodied on a computer-readable medium,*** comprising: computer code configured to: detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a stream of messages (claims 25 and 26; column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link, i.e. between an end device and first proxy or between pair of proxies; column 2, lines 34-37 which disclose **that the first SIGCOMP message contains instructions for the recipient to decompress the message, the instructions being in the form of a** special byte-code to be run on a UDVM (Universal De-compressor Virtual Machine), thereby disclosing ability to detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages);

decompress the detected control messages at the communication intermediary (Fig. 4, that shows a SIP message after decompression by the communication intermediary (proxy device); column 7, lines 61-67 and column 8, line 1 that disclose the same details); and

communicate user messages from the stream of messages through the communication intermediary without modification (**Abstract, lines 12-16 which disclose that encryption is applied after the message has traversed the end terminal link; on the first proxy link, the message is sent without encryption and can therefore benefit from compression;** column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that message bodies carry information end-to-end between multi-media devices, but message headers carry routing information and are used by the proxies).

Consider **claim 17**, and **as it applies to claim 16 above**, Watson et al. disclose a computer program product, further comprising computer code to identify a byte code designating a control message (column 2, lines 34-37 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP message containing instructions to decompress the message).

Consider **claim 18**, and **as it applies to claim 16 above**, Watson et al. disclose a computer program product, further comprising computer code to load a compression algorithm into a processor (column 2, lines 34-42 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP message containing instructions to decompress the message, which are uploaded with the first message).

Consider **claim 19**, and **as it applies to claim 16 above**, Watson et al. disclose a computer program product, further comprising computer code wherein the control messages are hop-by-hop messages (column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link).

Consider **claim 20**, and **as it applies to claim 16 above**, Watson et al. disclose a computer program product, further comprising computer code wherein messages comprise compressed and uncompressed messages, the control messages being uncompressed and the user messages being compressed and a transition from uncompressed to compressed is signaled using a control message (column 2, lines 27-29 which disclose that SIGCOMP is used link-by-link, i.e. between an end device and

first proxy or between pair of proxies, thereby disclosing uncompressed control messages; column 2, lines 34-37 which disclose the presence of special byte-code to be run on a UDVM (Universal De-compressor Virtual Machine), thereby disclosing ability to detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages; column 1, lines 40-43 which disclose that message bodies carry information end-to-end between multi-media devices, thereby disclosing that message bodies are forwarded in compressed form).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Aalto et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2006/0075134 A1).**

Consider **claim 7**, Aalto et al. show and disclose a device that communicates messages using a signaling compression protocol (abstract; Fig. 1 input unit 12, decompressing unit 14, and output unit 16 of the de-compressor block 10 receiving compressed header section, processing incoming messages, and transmitting the processed messages to the next device on the network; paragraph 0017 that discloses a signaling compression protocol), the device comprising:

an input that receives messages (Fig. 1, input unit 12 of the de-compressor block 10 receiving messages; paragraph 0104, lines 3-5 that disclose an input unit 12; paragraph 0105, lines 1-2 that disclose input unit 12 receiving data packets);

an output that transmits messages (Fig. 1, output unit 16 of the de-compressor block 10 transmitting messages; paragraph 0104, lines 3-5 that disclose an output unit 16);

a processor that detects control messages included in the messages received by the input, wherein the processor decompresses the control messages and directs non-control messages to be communicated through the output without modification (Fig. 1, decompressing unit 14 (a processor) of the de-compressor block 10 processing messages; paragraph 0104, lines 3-5 that disclose a decompressing unit 14; paragraph 0106 that discloses one or more predetermined algorithms to detect and decompress received messages, using header compression context table 18; paragraph 0117 which discloses that only the header section (control message) is decompressed, the compressed data packets are passed to the output unit 16 without modification).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness
or nonobviousness.

Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Watson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 7,213,143 B1)** in view of **Nessett et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,421,734 B1).**

Consider **claim 10**, and **as it applies to claim 7 above**, Watson et al. show and disclose the claimed invention, including disclosing that the control messages are used at the beginning of a session (column 2, lines 34-37 that disclose special byte-code in the first SIGCOMP message containing instructions to decompress the message), except disclosing that the processor enters a forwarding mode after the control messages are received.

In the same field of endeavor, Nessett et al. show and disclose that the processor enters a forwarding mode after the control messages are received (Fig. 5, Compression module 606 and Filter Setup module 607; column 7, lines 42-67 and column 8, lines 1-18 which disclose that the session filter is setup to identify packets; if the packets use the filter, they are forwarded without applying compression resources of the intermediate device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a device wherein the processor enters a forwarding mode after the control messages are received, as taught by Nessett et al., in the method of Watson et al., so as to eliminate unnecessary processing that cause delay in the delivery of the packets to the end device.

Consider **claim 14**, and **as it applies to claim 12 above**, Watson et al. show and disclose the claimed invention, except wherein the intermediate relay enters forwarding mode after control messages are received.

In the same field of endeavor, Nessett et al. show and disclose a system wherein the intermediate relay enters forwarding mode after control messages are received (Fig. 5, Compression module 606 and Filter Setup module 607; column 7, lines 42-67 and column 8, lines 1-18 which disclose that the session filter is setup to identify packets; if the packets use the filter, they are forwarded without applying compression resources of the intermediate device).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a system wherein the intermediate relay enters forwarding mode after control messages are received, as taught by Nessett et al., in the system of Watson et al., so as to eliminate unnecessary processing that cause delay in the delivery of the packets to the end device.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed 10/25/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicants' arguments as the applied reference provides adequate support and clarification (see the claim rejection reasons above in **Bold.** The examiner's rejection of 06/18/2007 is maintained.

The applicant has amended **independent claim 16** to overcome 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection, and **dependent claim 15** to overcome 35 U.S.C. 112 Second rejection. The examiner has indicated in **bold** text in the claim rejection sections above, the reasons for maintaining the rejections.

Consider **independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 16.** The examiner disagrees with the applicants' argument that Watson et al. reference does not teach or suggest that the user messages are allowed to pass through the network in compressed form. In the abstract, lines 12-16 state that the encryption (which requires decompression) is applied after the message has traversed the end terminal link. On the first proxy link, the message is sent without encryption and can therefore benefit from compression. Thus, the user message traverses the network in the compressed form, until it nears the end terminal link. Column 2, lines 34-45 further disclose that the first SIGCOMP message contains instructions (special byte-code to be run on a UDVM) for the recipient to decompress the message. If the message were transmitted uncompressed, there would be no need to send the special byte-code to decompress the message. The disclosure further states that the compression efficiency increases as more messages are sent. Therefore, it may be concluded that in Watson et al. reference, the user messages traverse the network in the compressed form. Also the statement that the first SIGCOMP message (control message) includes instructions for the recipient to decompress the message, further discloses that the control message is decompressed, as stated in the cited section (column 1, lines 40-43 which state that message headers carry routing information and protocol machinery and are used by the proxies, whereas

message bodies carry information end-to-end between multimedia devices). The examiner therefore **maintains the rejection for the independent claims 1, 7, 12, 16, and also the rejection of all the dependent claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-15, and 17-20** that have previously been rejected using cited references.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit: 2143

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kishin G. Belani whose telephone number is (571) 270-

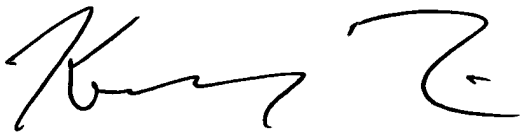
1768. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-0800.

Kishin G. Belani



K.G.B./kgb

December 31, 2007